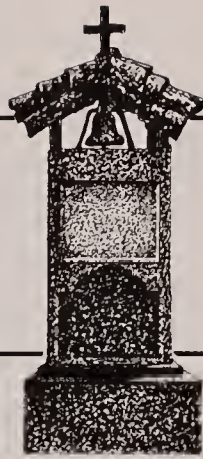


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IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Greetings Friends & Neighbors! ¡Bienvenidos! Mabuhay! BON GIORNO! 您好

April 1996

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our newsletter this month features information on combatting crime and gang activity in our neighborhood. We have met with the Police Captain and his officers. They told us of their determination to drive out gang activity from our area and increase patrols.

But we can't rely on the police entirely. There are things we must do to help. First, and most importantly, we can discourage gang activity by making our neighborhood uncomfortable for them. If we take time to pay attention to what is going on around us and report anything suspicious or illegal, then the police will respond. You can report anonymously by calling the Ingleside station for non-emergencies or by calling 9-1-1 for more serious crimes. The police will concentrate on our neighborhood only if we report things. So the bottom line is, report it, report it, report it!

The second thing we can do is organize and participate in a neighborhood watch program in our block. Neighborhood watch programs are very simple, yet effective. We need volunteer block captains to organize each block or portion of a block. They will gather the information about each household including your name, phone number and make of your car(s). Each person on the block will receive a copy of that information. If we know who and what is supposed to be happening on our block, then we are more likely to spot something suspicious or out of the ordinary.

If we all work together and gain the support of our local police, I am confident we can solve our problems and keep St. Mary's Park a comfortable and safe neighborhood for everyone.

Graham Beaumont, President

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING APRIL 9th at 7:30 PM.

1. SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS:

Two Representatives from S.A.F.E. will speak about safety tips and prevention and distribute educational materials.

2. PAULA HAMILTON

of Rec & Parks will give an update on Park Activity.

3. GARAGE SALE UPDATE

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

5. OLD BUSINESS

6. NEW BUSINESS

STOPPING GANG ACTIVITY IN ST. MARY'S PARK

At the March meeting of SMPIC, Capt. Dower of the Ingleside police station confirmed that several Mission District gangs have been successfully pushed South of Cesar Chavez and are trying to reestablish in the area near Mission and Crescent. This has resulted in increased policing of our area and a special undercover gang task force. Capt. Dower noted, however, that the presence of this task force was temporary and was in large part dependent on how much activity was happening in our neighborhood. He also stated that the Ingleside police station has established a "zero tolerance" policy. According to a phone interview with Sgt. Johnston of Ingleside Station, "zero tolerance means that we're going beyond the spirit of the law, where we might just issue a warning to someone, to enforcing the letter of the law." He said that this is particularly true when it comes to kids. If the police get reports of kids drinking in the park, standing in groups on sidewalks intimidating people or participating in malicious mischief, they will be given citations and the police will begin to establish rap sheets on these kids and look for patterns that may indicate participation in gang activity that may ultimately lead to an arrest.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING

Sgt. Johnston emphasized the importance of residents in the neighborhood reporting any suspicious activity. "People often think they're bothering us, but that's not the case, we want to hear from people. Citizens should realize that the number of police officers assigned to a neighborhood is based on the number of reported incidents and calls that are received from an area." Capt. Dower echoed this in his comments at our meeting saying that the more vocal a neighborhood is, the more attention it gets from the police. A perfect example of this occurred when a resident reported some youths drinking in St. Mary's Park. The police responded, were fired upon by one of the youths who had a gun, and were able to apprehend him and make an arrest.

WHAT TO REPORT

According to Sgt. Johnston and Capt. Dower, residents should call the Ingleside station @ 553-1603 and report any suspicious behavior they observe. He also encouraged residents to organize neighborhood watch groups. It has been documented that crime rates are less in neighborhoods with watch programs. Criminals don't like doing business in a neighborhood where people are watching!

TIPS FOR REPORTING AN EMERGENCY

from Sgt. Johnston, Ingleside Station

Many times people claim that they don't get the response they need from calling 911. When asking Sgt. Johnston about tips for getting police to respond to an emergency he gave the following tips:

- 1. Use 911 for emergency calls only.** If you're calling about a loud party or a suspicious looking character in your neighborhood don't tie up the 9-1-1 line. Call the non-emergency number.
- 2. Don't play it down.** Let the operator know it's serious. Let them know if there is a crime in progress and if weapons, alcohol or drugs are involved. If you don't the 911 operator will give your call a low priority.
- 3. Use a cordless phone and don't hang up until police get to your door.** If you don't hang up the 9-1-1 operators will be able to locate your address even if you can't speak. If you're scared, you should tell the operator that you want to stay on the line until police arrive. With a cordless phone, you can move around, hide, if necessary and still stay connected. If something happens and the situation gets worse, the 911 operators will be able to alert police to get to the scene faster.
- 4. Remember that 911 operators are trained civilians and do not have the same experience as police officers so give them as much information as you can.**

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences to the family of Ida Holmer, who recently passed away. Ida lived in the park for over 50 years and had served as secretary for the SMPIC. She is survived by her husband Ray, an active member of the Park who took care of the islands for over 15 years.

And, our regrets to Dennis Billingsley on the death of his dog Summer. We'll all miss seeing Summer taking Dennis for his walk in the park.

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Mary's Park Improvement Club May potluck dinner meeting. May 14 at 6:30 instead of 7:30. Please plan to attend and bring a dish to share.

Clip and Save Phone numbers

Emergency (gunshots, etc.)	9-1-1
Non-emergency Police	553- ~~6123~~ ⁰¹²³
Ingleside Police Station	553-1603
Parking Problems, Permits, Traffic	
Signs & Signals	553-1200
Abandoned Cars DPT	781-junk
	or 334-1151
Security/Neighborhood Watch	673-safe
Narcotics Tips	1-800 272-2548
Landlord-tenant disputes	554-9550
Neighbor disputes	863-6100
Domestic & Family Violence	864-4722
Child Parent Counseling	621-2929
Pepper Spray Training	334-1151
Stray, abused dangerous animals	554-6364
Dumped Item pickup (tires, etc.)	695-2017
Graffiti cleanup DPW	241-wash
Muni Shelter Damage	882-4949
Community Policing	333-3433

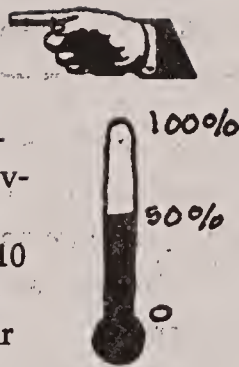
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



HAPPY 99th Birthday to Anna Payne! Anna has been a resident of St. Mary's Park for 64 years. Many more happy birthdays to come.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?!

Help SMPIC meet its goal of 100% participation by sending or delivering your \$20 annual membership dues to 410 Justin Street. Keep the club a vital part of your neighborhood.



EGG HUNT BIG SUCCESS

Kids of all ages turned out on Saturday, April 6th for the St. Mary's Park Easter Egg Hunt. Bernie the Rabbit was on hand to help out with the hunt and award prizes to those who found the specially marked "prize winner." A special thanks to all those who decorated eggs, filled several dozen plastic eggs with candy and to those who hid the eggs. And, last but not least, thanks to Bernie the Rabbit from Annie's Homegrown Pasta for his participation.

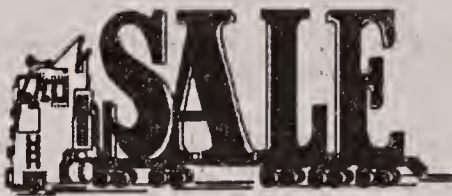
Make the Most of Your Park

The Recreation Center in St. Mary's Park always has great activities going on all the time. There are baseball teams forming for children from 7 to 14 years of age. The Senior Citizens Club meets on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Tiny Tots program, for children 3-5 years old, is every Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There's Mexican Folk dancing on Monday and Thursday nights from 7 to 9, and Pee Wee Sports every Thursday from 2 to 3 in the afternoon. The Rec Center also has Teen night every Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. And, the Weight room is open from 7 to 9 p.m. from Tuesday through Friday. Go on down, join in and have some fun!

Paula Hamilton, the supervisor down at the Rec Center, wants to know if there is any interest in the neighborhood for a toddler's gym class on Saturdays? They've got little cars, climbing apparatus, and lots of toys, but they need some kids. Also, if neighbors have any interest in forming volleyball, badminton or tennis teams, the Rec Center would be glad to provide space and equipment. Call Paula at 695-5006.

Gym Hours

Sunday Noon - 5 p.m.
Monday 3 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Tues.-Friday 1:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Park Wide Garage Sale Set for June 1st

The SMPIC event committee announced that June 1st from 9 am to 3 pm has been set for the Park wide garage sale. There will be a \$15 registration fee for those who wish to participate. This gets you a garage sale survival kit including balloons, tips on how to have a successful sale and pricing stickers. The sale will be advertised in the Chronicle and the SF Independent. Signs will also be posted around the area to attract buyers. Money left over from expenses will go to the SMPIC to support special projects throughout the year that benefit the Park. This is a great opportunity to get out and meet your neighbors! Households wishing to participate may contact Jonna @ 285-7425 for more information

SPRUCE UP THE PARK FOR MOTHER'S DAY *A St. Mary's Park Tradition*

In the days before street sweepers, St. Mary's Park began the tradition of cleaning up the weeds that used to grow on and around the sidewalks and curbs. Traditionally this happens the weekend before Mother's Day. Although street sweeping has improved over the years, SMP still keeps the tradition going. Sat. and Sun. May 4th & 5th from 9AM to 3 PM is the time to get out there and scape the weeds from your sidewalks and curbs. Sweep them into a pile at the curb or bag them and leave it at the curb. A volunteer clean up crew will be around to pick it up. If you're really zealous about weeds, perhaps you'd like to help out an elderly neighbor or two. If you'd like to volunteer meet at 9AM Sat. at 418 College. And please, no household garbage, large tree limbs or stumps!

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Vice Pres.	George Chen	239-0702
Secretary	Gloria T. Ambra	584-2905
Treasurer	Jewel Walli	585-9064
Sunshine	Marie Guinasso	585-3187
Sgt. at Arms	Tom Ray	824-3461
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